

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00254 231455Z  
ACTION NEA-07

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R 231417Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4102  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0254

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US, EG  
SUBJ: EGYPTIANS REQUEST BRIEFING ON US-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. PROMPTED BY EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY ACCORDED CONGRESSMAN SYMMS VISIT, EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COUNSELLOR AHMAD ADEL CALLED LAST WEEK TO ASK ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE VISIT AND WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SYMMS VISIT TO LIBYA AND SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TOUR. HE WONDERED IF QADHAFI HAD GIVEN SYMMS ANY MESSAGE FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION.

2. WE ASSURED ADEL THAT SYMMS DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF IDAHO AGRICULTURISTS AND WERE IN NO SENSE EMISSARIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION. WE JUDGED THAT SYMMS MEETING WITH QADHAFI AND UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE WAS DESIGNED BY LARG TO DEMONSTRATE, ON EVE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND DURING SECRETARY'S MIDEAST TOUR, THAT LARG NOT ENTIRELY ISOLATED. ADEL AGREED WITH OUR ANALYSIS OF LARG PURPOSE IN TURNING OSTENSIBLY AGRICULTURAL TOUR INTO PROMINENT MEDIA EVENT. ADEL OBSERVED THAT QADHAFI MUST HAVE A REAL NEED TO DEMONSTRATE TIES TO WEST AFTER CONTROVERSIAL EXCHANGE OF VISITS WITH EAST.

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3. WHEN ADEL ASKED ABOUT CURRENT STATUS LIBYAN-US RELATIONS, WE TOLD HIM THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD NOT BASICALLY CHANGED. "ENEMIES LIST" ARTICLE HAD ALARMED LIBYANS, BUT THEY EVENTUALLY DECIDED TO BLAME IT ON FORD ADMINISTRATION. LIBYANS CONTINUE TO PROFESS A DESIRE FOR IMPROVED TIES AND HAD SENT MESSAGE TO SECRETARY VIA MFA ANC CHARGE CARLE OUTLINING LARG

POSITIONS ON TERRORISM AND MIDEAST. WE NOTED THAT THE MESSAGE CONTAINED NOTHING BEYOND LARG'S PUBLIC POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT BARRIERS TO BETTER RELATIONS. BUT MESSAGE DID DEMONSTRATE THAT LARG CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS OUR REASONS FOR CURRENT STATUS RELATIONS.

4. ADEL SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD FORCEFULLY AND REPEATEDLY REITERATE OUR CONCERN OVER LIBYAN UNDERMINING OF MEDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS AND LARG SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS. THIS COULD BE QUITE USEFUL TO EGYPT. WE WOULD NEVER GET A CONFESSION FROM THE LIBYANS AND LARG'S ASSURANCES AREN'T WORTH MUCH, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL RECENT INDICATIONS THAT LARG LEADERSHIP NOW HAS SECOND THOUGHTS ON THESE ISSUES. ADEL SAID THAT QADHAFI HAD TOLD ARAFAT RECENTLY THAT LIBYANS WOULD NOT BE MORE PALESTINIAN THAN THE PALESTINIANS AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT PLO ROUTE TO MEPC AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. LARG IS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT IN MIDDLE EAST, ADEL CONCLUDED, BUT ROAD TO SETTLEMENT WOULD BE MUCH SMOOTHER WITHOUT QADHAFI'S TROUBLE-MAKING.  
CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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